

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 03656 231422Z

44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 OC-05

CCO-00 SY-05 CU-02 IGA-01 CPR-01 ST-01 EB-07 SIL-01

LAB-04 OMB-01 /100 W

----- 036833

O 231240Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4015

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

MACTHAI BANGKOK THAI/J/3

CDR USSAG NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3656

CANBERRA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, AEMR, LA

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN LAOS MAY 23

REF: VIENTIANE 3609

1. AMERICANS RELEASED FROM SAVANNAKHET -- INTERIOR MINISTER
PHENG AND HIS DEPUTY DEAUNE FINALLY REACHED SAVANNAKHET
MAY 21 AND ON MAY 22 OBTAINED THE RELEASE OF 14 AMERICANS
FROM SAVANNAKHET. THEY AND A GROUP OF EIGHTEEN OTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 03656 231422Z

PERSONS OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES WERE FLOWN TO UDORN, AR-

RIVING THERE AT 2000 HOURS LOCAL TIME MAY 22.

2. RALLY AT NATIONAL STADIUM -- MOST OF VIENTIANE WAS MESMERIZED DURING MORNING HOURS BY THREE-HOUR RALLY WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY SOME 3,000 IN NATIONAL STADIUM WHICH CAN HOLD MORE THAN 10,000; IT WAS BROADCAST LIVE OVER LAO NATIONAL RADIO. THE FESTIVITIES WERE OPENED BY SISAVANG CHANTHEPA, PRESIDENT OF THE "21 ORGANIZATIONS." THERE FOLLOWED SPEECHES BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT (LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT/LPF); DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEAUM INSISIENGMAI (VIENTIANE SIDE); SISOUMANG SISALEUNSAK, VICE PRESIDENT (VIENTIANE SIDE), JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL; THE FORCES ARMEES ROYALES COMMANDER IN CHIEF GENERAL BOUNPONE; THE LAO NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL; THE MAYOR OF VIENTIANE; AND FINALLY SAMEU MONTHRAY, LEFTIST LEADER OF THE LAO TEACHERS' FEDERATION.

3. IN HIS SPEECH PHOUMI EXPLAINED LAOS' POLICY OF NEUTRALITY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT USAID BRANCH OFFICES HAVE BEEN DISSOLVED AND THAT, SO FAR AS USAID HEADQUARTERS IN VIENTIANE IS CONCERNED, ITS DISSOLUTION WILL BE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND USG. HE ADDED THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE IS STILL DESIRED. HE STATED THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU) SUPPORTS 21 ORGANIZATIONS AND HOPES THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO DO GOOD JOB. SAMEU GAVE EXPLOSIVE CLOSING SPEECH WHICH CELEBRATED "LAO VICTORY OVER GREAT GIANT"; HE ADDED: "AMERICA HAS NO MORE POWER IN INDO-CHINA."

4. FOLLOWING RALLY THE ONLOOKERS LEFT STADIUM QUIETLY AND DID NOT ENGAGE IN ANY DEMONSTRATIONS OR VIOLENCE.

5. USAID COMPOUND AT NA HAI DIAO -- SITUATION AT USAID/DAO COMPLEX IN NA HAI DIAO REMAINS LARGELY UNCHANGED FROM SITUATION REPORTED REFTEL; SOME 30 OR 40 DEMONSTRATORS REMAIN IN THE COMPOUND; THERE ARE ALSO ARMED PL SOLDIERS WALKING AROUND INSIDE. FOR TIME BEING SITUATION IS CALM WITH NO DAMAGE BEING SUSTAINED BY U.S. PROPERTY THERE. THE THREE AMERICANS HOLED UP IN VARIOUS BUILDINGS ARE BEARING UP REMARKABLY WELL, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 03656 231422Z

ALTHOUGH CIVILIAN CONTRACT EMPLOYEE IS ON VERGE OF RUNNING OUT OF FOOD AND DEMONSTRATORS HAD REFUSED FOOD TO LAO TELEPHONE OPERATORS FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS. WITHIN 45 MINUTES AFTER EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS TO FONMIN CHEF DE CABINET ON THIS LAST MATTER, OPERATORS GOT FOOD.

6. WAREHOUSE STILL IN PL HANDS -- IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT U.S. WILL NOT SHIP OUT

USAID GOODS WHICH "BELOG" TO PGNU, PL ELEMENTS RETAIN CONTROL OVER ACCESS TO OUR WAREHOUSES AT KM-9 AND "KIM SUA". CONTRACT (TAPS) GUARDS ARE IN CONTROL OF MEDICAL WAREHOUSE NEAR SILVER CITY COMPOUND. WE STILL HAVE NO INDICATION THAT ANY OF THESE WAREHOUSES HAS BEEN ENTERED OR DAMAGED IN ANY WAY.

7. LAA CLOSED AS RESULT OF THREATS -- REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LAO AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (LAA) TODAY RECEIVED THREATENING PHONE CALLS WHICH LED TO A DECISION BY LAA AND USIS DIRECTOR TO CLOSE THE FACILITY AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.

8. KM-6 STALEMATE BROKEN --

A) DESPITE PROMISES FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT MOVEMENT INTO AND OUT OF U.S. RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY AT KM-6 WOULD BE ASSURED, FRONT GATE AT KM-6 REMAINED CLOSED UNTIL MID-AFTERNOON MAY 23, WITH JOINT MILITARY PROTECTIVE FORCES (JMPF) THERE (PARTICULARLY THE DISIDENT FAR MILITARY POLICE) FIRST REFUSING TO OPEN GATES UNLESS ORDERED IN WRITING TO DO SO BY PHOUMI AND LATER UNLESS ORDERED BY ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER KHAMOUANE BOUPHA (LPF). ORIGINAL DEPARTURE TIME OF 1100 HOURS FOR MORE THAN 80 AMERICANS (MOSTLY DEPENDENTS) MANIFESTED ON ROYAL AIR LAO CHARTER FLIGHT TO BANGKOK THEREFORE SLIPPED.

B) THERE WERE INNUMERABLE CONVERSATIONS/NEGOTIATIONS AT MANY LEVELS THROUGHOUT MORNING AND MIDDAY: MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HIS CHEF DE CABINET, CHARGE AND EMBOFF; ASSISTANT ARMY ATTACHE AND USAID OFFICERS AT KM-6 WITH DEMONSTRATORS. AT ONE POINT PHOUMI TOLD CHARGE HE WAS GOING TO SPOT TO SETTLE MATTERS. CHARGE DECIDED TO GO THERE HIMSELF BUT PHOUMI NEVER SHOWED UP. PROBLEM CAME CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 VIENTI 03656 231422Z

DOWN TO ISSUE OF DEMONSTRATORS' DEMAND TO INSURE THAT DEPARTING PERSONS DID NOT CARRY AWAY "USAID MATERIEL BELONGING TO PGNU." (SIC). FINALLY, ISSUE WAS RESOLVED BY DEMONSTRATORS LOOKING OVER BAGS AND BAGGAGE AND SATISFYING THEMSELVES THESE WERE PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND NOT USAID GOODS. THEY DID NOT OPEN ANY BAGS, AND THEY DID NOT ENTER COMPOUND. THESE WERE THE TWO POINTS ON WHICH WE HELD ABOLUTELY FIRM.

C) BUSES AND TRUCKS FINALLY DEPARTED WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES AND FLIGHT TOOK OFF AT 1725 HOURS. WE HAVE ORGANIZED A SECOND FLIGHT TO BANGKOK THIS EVENING UTILIZING SAME AIRCRAFT.

D) AT LAST REPORT, MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL (OTHER THAN PERSONS DEPARTING LAOS) AND VEHICLES AT KM-6 WAS SOMEWHAT FREER THAN IT HAD BEEN EARLIER. CARS WITH DIPLOMATIC AND "IT

"

(PERSONAL CARS OF NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL) PLATES ARE CURRENTLY BEING WAVED THROUGH IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, BUT "AIT" (GOVERNMENT-OWNED) VEHICLES ARE STILL SUBJECT TO SEARCH. (THIS SITUATION CHANGES CAPRICIOUSLY, SOMETIMES WITH CHANGES OF GUARDS.)

9. CHARTER AIRCRAFT: WE HAVE MEANWHILE FOLLOWED PROCEDURE OUTLINED BY FONMIN TO CHARGE YESTERDAY AND REQUEST DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR VARIOUS OTHER AIRCRAFT INCLUDING BIRD AIR DC-6'S, BIRD-CREWED C-130, AND CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICES C-46. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW PROMPTLY CLEARANCES WILL BE ISSUED. MEANWHILE, WE ARE STILL NEGOTIATING FOR USE OF AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE C-130, FLYING FOR UNHCR, TO BACKHAUL CRATED HHE TO BANGKOK.

10. STRIKES AT WATTAY: DAY BEGAN WITH A STRIKE AGAINST ROYAL AIR LAO UNDER WAY AT WATTAY. FRONT GATE AT AIRPORT WAS CLOSED, TOWER WAS NOT WORKING, AND DEMONSTRATORS WERE SEEN IN FRONT OF MAIN TERMINAL. HOWEVER, SOME AIR OPERATIONS CONTINUED DURING THE MORNING AND STRIKE ENDED OF ITS OWN ACCORD ABOUT NOON LOCAL TIME.

CHAPMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, EVACUATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI03656
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750181-1092
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750521/aaaaaspv.tel
Line Count: 191
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 VIENTIANE 3609
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN LAOS MAY 23
TAGS: PINT, PINS, AEMR, LA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006